

THE
PRE-EMINENCE
AND
PEDIGREE
OF
PARLEMENT.

Wherunto is added
A Vindication of ſom Paſſages
reflecting upon the Author, in a
Book call'd *The Popes Royall Favorite*,
pen'd and publiſhed by Mr. *Prynne*;
wherin he ſtiles him,

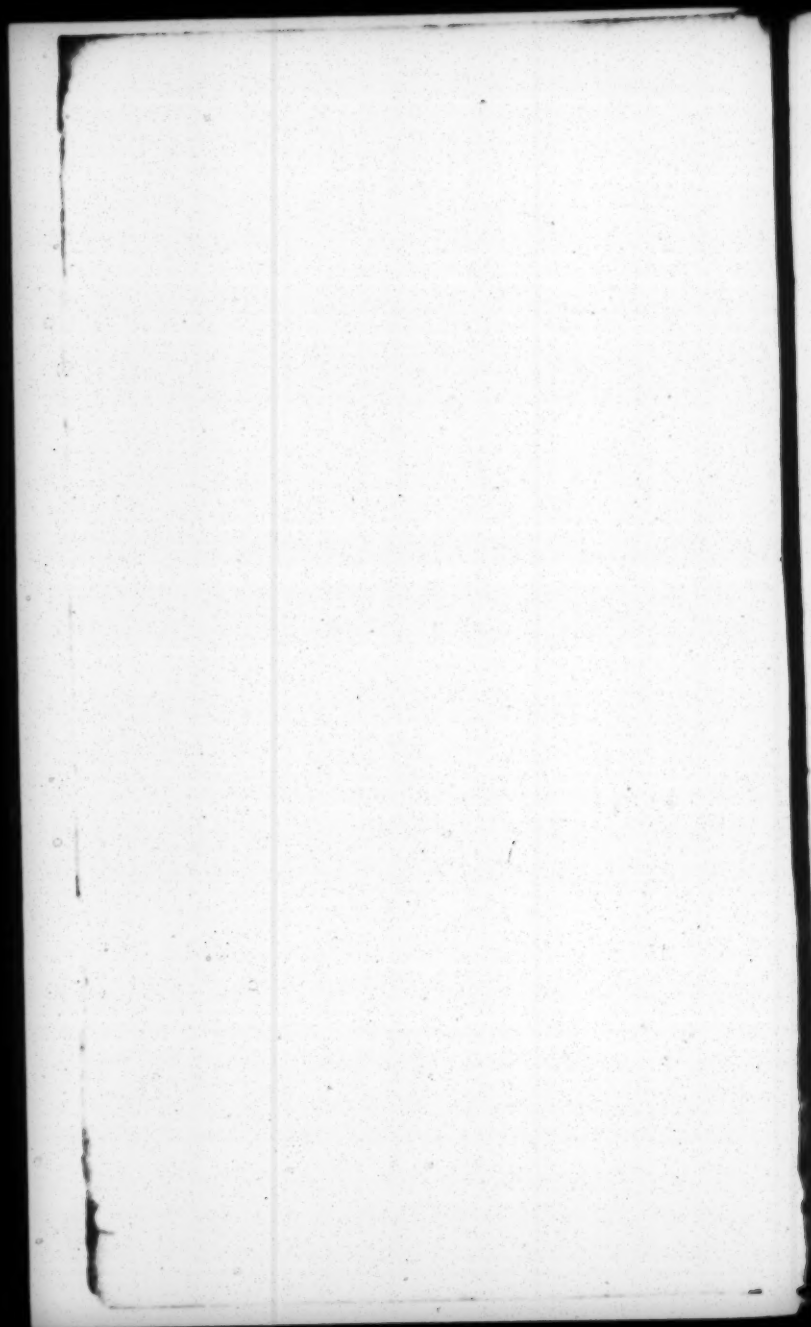
*No Friend to Parlements, and a
Malignant*, Pag. 42.

With a clearing of ſom Occurrences
in Spain at His MAJESTIES being
there, cited by the ſaid Mr. *Prynne*
out of the *Locall Foreſt*.

By *J. H.* Eſq; One of the Clerks
of His MAJESTIES moſt
Honorable Privy-Councell.

Publiſhed by ſpeciall Order

London, Printed by J. K. for Humphry Aſpley. 1645





T O

My worthily honored Friend,
Sir W. S. Knight.

S I R,

I Have many thanks to give you for the Book you pleased to send me, called The Popish Royall Favorite ; and according to your advice (which I value in a high degree) I put Pen to Paper, and something you may see I have done (though in a poor Pamphletting way) to clear my self of those aspersions that are cast upon me therein. But truly Sir, I was never so unfit for such a task ; all my Papers, Manuscripts, and Notes, having bin long since seized upon and kept from me. Adde herunto, that besides this long pressuxe and languishment of twenty three Moneths close restraint (the sense wherof, I find bath much stupified my spirits) it pleased God to visit me lately with a dangerous fit of sicknes, a high burning Feaver, with the

new Disease, wherof my Body as well as my Mind, is yet somewhat crazy: So that (take all afflictions together) I may truly say, I have passed the Ordeal, the fiery Tryall. But it hath pleased God to relieve me to see better dayes I hope; for out of this fatal black Cloud, which now oversets this poor Island, I hope ther will break a glorious Sun shine of peace and firm happines: To effect which, had I a Jury, a Grand Jury of lives, I would sacrifice them all, and triumph in the oblation.

So I most affectionately kisse your hands,
and rest

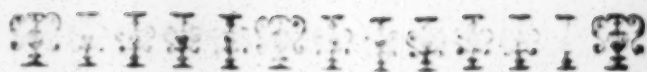
Your faithfull
(though afflicted)

Servant,

From the Prison
of the Fleet.

J. H.

The



The Pre eminence of Parlement.

Scito Primit.



Am a free-born Subject of the Realm
of *England*, whereby I claim as my
native Inheritance, an undoubted right,
property, and portion in the *Laws* of
the *Land*; And this distinguishes me
from a Slave. I claim also an hereditall and common
right in the *High* Nationall Court of *Parlament*,
and in the *Power*, the *Priviledge*, and *Jurisdiction*
thereof, which I put in equall ballance with the *Laws*,
in regard it is, the *Fountain* whence they spring, And
this I hold also to be a principall part of my Birth-
right, which great Councell I honour, respect, value,
and love in as high a degree as can be; as being the
Bulwark of our *Liberties*, the main boundary and link
which keeps us from slavery, from the invasions of stran-
ger Rule, and unbounded Will-government. And I hold
my self obliged in a tye of indispenfible obedience,
to conform and submit my self to whatsoever shall be
transacted, concluded, and constituted by its authority
in Church or State; whether it be by making, enlarg-
ing, altering, diminishing, dissanulling, repealing,
or reviving of any *Law*, *Statute*, *Act*, or *Ordinance*
whatsoever, either touching matters Ecclesiasticall

A 2

Civill

Civill, Common, Capitall, Criminall, Martiall, Maritime, Municipall, or any other; of all which, the transcendent and uncontrollable Jurisdiction of that Court is capable to take cognizance.

Amongst the three things which the *Athenian* Captain thank'd the gods for, one was, That he was born a *Grecian*, and not a *Barbarian*. For such was the vanity of the *Greeke*, and after them, of the *Romans*, in the flourish of their Monarchy, to arrogate all civility to themselves, and to term all the world besides *Barbarians*: So I may say to have cause to rejoyce, that I was born a vassall to the Crown of *England*; that I was born under so well moulded and tempered a Government, which endows the subject with such Liberties and Infranchisements that bear up his naturall courage, and keep him still in heart; such Liberties that fence and secure him eternally from the gripes and talions of *Tyranny*: And all this may be imputed to the Authority and Wisdom of this High Court of *Parlement*, wherein ther is such a rare co-ordination of power (though the Sovereignty remain still entire, and untransferable in the person of the Prince) ther is, I say, such a wholsom mixture 'twixt *Monarchy*, *Optimacy*, and *Democracy*; 'twixt Prince, Peers, and Communalty, during the time of consultation, that of so many distinct parts, by a rare co-operation and unanimity, they make but one *Body Politic*, (like that Sheaf of Arrows in the Emblem) one entire concentricall peece, and the results of their deliberations, but as so many harmonious diapasons arising from different strings. And what greater immunity and happines can ther be to a Peeple, then to be liable to no Laws but what they make themselves? To be subject to no Contribution, Assessement, or any pecuniary levy whatsoever, but what they Vote, and voluntarily yeeld unto themselves: For in this

compacted *Politie Body*, there be all degrees of people represented; both the Mechanick, Tradesman, Merchant, and Yeoman, have their inclusive Vote, as well as the Gentry, in the persons of their Trustees, their Knights and Burgesses, in passing of all things. Nor is this Sovereign Surintendent Councell an Epitome of this Kingdom onely, but it may be said to have a representation of the whole Universe; as I heard a fluent well-worded Knight deliver the last *Parlement*, who compared the beautifull composure of that High Court, to the great Work of God, the World it self: The King is as the Sun, the Nobles the fixed Stars, the Itinerant Judges and other Officers (that go upon Messages 'twixt both Houses) to the Planets; the Clergy to the Element of fire; the Commons, to the solid *Body* of Earth, and the rest of the Elements. And to pursue this comparison a little farther; as the heavenly Bodies, when three of them meet in *Conjunction*, do use to produce some admirable effects in the Elementary World: So when these three *States* convene and assemble in one solemn great *Junta*, some notable and extraordinary things are brought forth, tending to the welfare of the whole Kingdom, our *Microcosm*.

HE that is never so little versed in the Annales of this Isle, will find that it hath bin her fate to be four times *conquered*. I exclude the *Scot*; for the situation of his Countrey, and the quality of the Clime hath been such an advantage and security to him, that neither the *Roman Eagles* would flie thither, for fear of Freezing their Wings; nor any other Nation attempt the work.

These so many Conquests must needs bring with them many rumblings and tossings, many disturbances and changes in Government; yet I have observed,
that

hold to be one of the specialst, and most authentic peeces of Antiquity we have extant. *Edward the Confessor* made all his Laws thus, (and he was a great *Legislator*,) which the *Norman Conquerour* (who liking none of his sons, made God Almighty his heir, bequeathing unto him this Island for a Legacy) did ratifie and establish, and digested them into one entire methodicall Systeme, which being violated by *Rufus*, (who came to such a disastrous end as to be shot to death in lieu of a *Buck* for his sacriledges) were restor'd by *Henry the first*, and so they continued in force till King *John*, whose raige is renowned for first confirming *Magna Charta*, the foundation of our Liberties ever since: Which may be compar'd to divers *Danish Grass* set upon one *English flock*; or to a *Potie of sund' fragrant Flowers*; for the choicest of the *British*, the *Roman*, *Saxon*, *Danish*, and *Norman* Laws, being cull'd and pick'd out, and gathered as it were into one bundle, out of them the foresaid *grand Charter* was extracted: And the establishment of this great Charter was the work of a *Parlemtent*.

Nor are the Laws of this Island onely, and the freedom of the Subject conserved by *Parlemtent*, but all the best policed Countreys of *Europe* have the like. The *Germanes* have their *Diets*, the *Danes* and *Swedes* their *Ricks Dachs*, the *Spaniard* calls his *Parlemtent*, *Las Cortes*, and the *French* have (or should have at least) their *Assembly of three States*, though it be grown now in a manner obsolesc, because the Authority thereof was (by accident) devolv'd to the King. And very remikable it is, how this hapned, to wit when the *English* had taken such large footing in most parts of *France*, having advanced as far as *Orleans*, and driven their then King *Charles the seventh* to *Bourges* in *Berry*; the *Assembly of the three States* in these pressures, being not able to meet after the usuall manner

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in full *Parlement*, because the Countrey was unpassable, the enemy having made such firm invasions up and down through the very bowels of the Kingdom; that power which formerly was inherent in the *Parliamentary Assembly*, of making Laws, of assessing the Subj. *ct* with Taxes, subsidiary levies, and other impositions, was transmitted to the King during the War; which continuing many yeers, that intrusted power by length of time grew as it were habituall in him, and could never after be re-assumed and taken from him; so that ever since, his *Edicts* countervail *Acts* of *Parlement*. And that which made the busines more feasible for the King, was, that the burthen fell most upon the Community (the Clergy and Nobility not feeling the weight of it) who were willing to see the *Peasant* pull'd down a little, because not many yeers before in that notable Rebellion, call'd *La Jacquerie de Beauvoisin*, which was suppressed by *Charles the wise*, the common people put themselves boldly in Arms against the Nobility and Gentry, to lessen their power. Add hereunto as an advantage to the work, that the next succeeding King *Lewis the eleventh*, was a close cunning Prince, and could well tell how to play his game, and draw water to his own Mill; For amongst all the rest, he was said to be the first that put the Kings of *France*, *Hors de page*, out of their minority, or from being *Pages* any more, though thereby he brought the poor *Peasants* to be worse then *Lacquays*.

With the fall, or at least the discontinuance of that usuall *Parliamentary Assembly* of the *three States*, the liberty of the *French Nation* utterly fell; the poor *Romier* and *Vineyard-man*, with the rest of the *Yeomanry*, being reduced ever since to such an abject *asinin* condition, that they serve but as *sponges* for the King to squeeze when he list. Nevertheless, as that King bath,

hath an advantage hereby one way, to *monarchize* more absolutely, and never to want money, but to *ballast his Purse* when he will: so there is another mighty inconvenience ariseth to him and his whole Kingdom another way; for this illegall peeling of the poor *Peasant* hath so dejected him, and cowed his native courage so much by the sense of poverty (*which brings along with it a narrownes of soul*) that he is little usefull for the War: which puts the *French King* to make other Nations mercenary to him, to fill up his *Infantry*: Insomuch, that the Kingdom of *France* may be not unfitly compared to a body that hath all its blood drawn up into the Arms, Brest and Back, and scarce any left from the Girdle downwards, to cherish and bear up the lower parts, and keep them from starving.

All this seriously considered, there cannot be a more proper and pregnant example then this of our *next Neighbours*, to prove how infinitely necessary the *Parlement* is, to assert, to prop up, and preserve the Publike Liberty, and Nationall Rights of a people, with the incolumity and welfare of a Countrey.

Nor doth the *Subject* onely reap benefit thus by *Parlement*, but the *Prince* (if it be well consider'd) hath equall advantage thereby; It rendreth him a King of *free and able men*, which is far more glorious then to be a King of *Slaves, Beggars, and Bankrupts*. Men that by their freedom, and competency of wealth, are kept still in heart to do him service against any forrain force. And it is a true maxime in all States, that 'tis lesse danger and dishonour for the Prince to be poor, then his people: Rich Subjects can make their King rich when they please; if he gain their hearts, he will quickly get their purses. *Parlement* increaseth love and good intelligence twixt him and his people; it acquaints him with the reality of things,

and

and with the true state and diseases of his Kingdom ; it brings him to the knowledge of his better sort of Subjects, and of their abilities, which he may employ accordingly upon all occasions ; it provides for his Royall Issue, payes his debts, findes means to fill his Cofters : and it is no ill observation. The *Parlemtary money* (the great *Ad*) have prospered best with with the Kings of *England* ; it exceedingly raiseth his repute abroad, and enableth him to keep his *feet in fear, his Subjects in awe, his Neighbours and Confederates in feare*, the three main things which go to aggrandize a Prince, and render him glorious. In sum, it is the *Parlemt* that supports, and bears up the honour of his Crown, and settles his Throne in safety, which is the chief end of all their consultations. For whosoever is entrusted to be a Member of this High Court, carrieth with him a double capacity : he sits there as a *Parent*, and as a *Subject*. As he is the one, the Countrey is his object, his duty being to vindicate the Publike Liberty, to make wholesome *Laws*, to put his hand to the pump, and stop the leaks of the great vessell of the State, to ply into, and punish corruption and oppression, to improve and advance trade, to have the grievances of the place he serves redressed, and call about how to find something that may tend to the advantage of it.

But he must not forget that he sits there also as a *Subject*, and according to that capacity, he must apply himself to do his *own* business : to provide not only for his *publick*, but his *personal* wants, to bear up the lustre and glory of his *Court*, to consider what occasions of *extravagant* expences he may have, by encrease of Royall Issue, or maintenance of any of them ; to see to it that he may vindicate any affront or indignity that might be offered to his Person, Crown, or Dignity, or any *foreign* state or Kingdom.

to consult what may enlarge his Honour, convenience, and pleasure. And as the French *Tartarus* (*Comino*) hath it, the English Nation was used to be more forward and zealous in this particular then any other; according to that ancient eloquent speech of a great Lawyer, *Domus Regis est illa domus omnium, citum illius labor omnium, delictum illius delictum omnium, et auctum illius occupatio omnium, etiam illius periculum omnium, honor illius gloriam omnium.* Every one should stand Centinell to defend the Kings Houles, his safety should be the danger of all, his pleasure the safety of all, his ease should be the law of all, his benefit the joy of all.

Out of these premisses this conclusion may be easily deduced, that, *The person of a Christian whence the King derives his Empire and safety, is his Parliament.* It is that great Conduitt Pipe which conveys into him his Peoples bounty and gratitude, the true Looking-Glass wherein he discerns their loves; now the Subject *the Parliament* is around the prince entailed of a throne. In his presence he appears as the Sun in the Meridian, in the shew of his glory, in his high State Royal, as the Law tells us.

Therefore who ever is averse or disaffectioned to this Sovereign Law-making Court, cannot have his heart well pleased within him. He can be neither good Subject, nor good Patriot; and therefore unworthy to breathe Liberty, or have any benefit, advantage, or protection from the Laws.

Seſſio Secundo.



Y that which hath been ſpoken, *which is the language of my heart*, I hope no indifferent judicious Reader will doubt of the cordiall affection, of the high reſpects and due reverence I bear to *Parlement*, as being the whoſomeſt conſtitution, (and done by the highſt and happieſt reach of policy) that ever was eſtabliſhed in this *iſland*, to perpetuate the happines thereof: Therefore I muſt tell that *Gentleman*, who was Author of a Book entituled, *The Popiſh Royall Favorite*, (lately Printed and expoſed to the world) that he offers me very hard meaſure; nay, he doth me apparant wrong, to terme me therein, *No friend to Parlement*, and a *Malignant*; A character, which as I deſerve it not, ſo I diſdain it.

For the firſt part of his charge, I would have him know, that I am as much a *friend*, and *as real an affectionate humble ſervant and votary* to the *Parlement*, as poſſibly he can be, and will live and die with theſe affectiones about me: And I could wiſh, that he were Secretary of my thoughts awhile; or if I may take the boldnes to apply that compariton His late Majeſty uſed in a famous ſpeech to one of his *Parlements*, I could wiſh there were a Chryſtall Window in my Breſt, through which the world might eſpy the inward motions and palpitations of my heart; then would he be certified of the ſincerity of this Proteſtation.

For the ſecond part of his charge, to be a *Malignant*, I muſt confeſſe to have ſom *Malignity* that licks within me,

me, much against my will; but it is no *malignity* of mind, it is amongst the *humours*, not in my *intellectuals*. And I beleeve, there is no naturall man, let him have his *humours* never so well ballanced, but hath somof this *malignity* raining within him; For as long as we are composed of the four *Elements*, whence these *humors* are derived, and with whom they symbolize in qualities; which *Elements* the Philosophers hold to be in a restless contention amongst themselves (and the Stoick thought that the world subsisted by this innated mutuall strife) as long, I say, as the four *humors*, in imitation of their principles (the *Elements*) are in perpetuall reluctancy and combate for predominancy, ther must be som *malignity* lodg'd within us, as adust choler, and the like; wherof I had late experience, in a dangerous fit of sickness it pleased God to lay upon me, which the Physicians told me proceeded from the *malignant* hypocondriacall effects of *melancholy*; having been so long in this *Saturnine* black condition of close imprisonment, and buried a live between the Walls of this fatall *Fleet*. These kinds of *malignities*, I confesse are very rife in me, and they are not onely incident, but connaturall to every man according to his complexion: And were it not for this incessant struggling and enmity amongst the *humors* for mastery, which produceth such *malignant* effects in us, our souls would be loth ever to depart from our bodies, or to abandon this mansion of clay.

Now what *malignity* my *Accuser* means, I know not; if he means *malignity* of *spirit*, as som antipathy or ill impression upon the mind, arising from disaffection, hatred, or rancor, with a desire of som destructive revenge, he is mightily deceiv'd in me; I *maligne* or hate no Creature that ever God made, but the *Devil*, who is the Author of all *malignity*; and
therefore

therefore is most commonly called in French *le Malin Asprit* the malignant spirit. Every night before I go to bed, I have the grace, I think God for it, to forgive all the world, and not to harbour, or let roost in my bosom the least malignant thought; yet none can deny, but the aspersions which this my *Accuser* casts upon me, were enough to make me a malignant towards him; yet it could never have the power to do it: For I have prevail'd with my self to forgive him this his wrong censure of me, issuing rather from his *not-knowledge* of me, than from *malice*, for we never mingled speech, or saw one another in our lives, to my remembrance: which makes me wonder the more, that a Professor of the Law, as he is, should pronounce such a positive sentence against me so slightly. But he thinks I over-ride himself, That the precedent discourse of *Parlement* is involv'd in generals, and the Tropique Axiome tells us, that *Delectare sum in universalibus* means is dealing in universals: His meaning is, that I am no friend to this present *Parlement* (though he speaks in the plural number *Parlement*) and consequently, he concludes me a Malignant: Therein, I must tell him also, that I am traduc'd, and I am confident it will be never prov'd against me, from any *act*, *words*, or *letters* (though divers of mine have been intercepted) or any other misdemeanor, though some things are tather'd upon me which never drop'd from my quill. Ah, how unworthy an Undertaking I to censure the proceedings of that great *Senate*, that high *Synodion*, wherein the wisdom of the whole State is epitomized? It were a presumption in me, of the highest nature that could be: It is enough for me to pay for the prosperous success of their consultations: And as I hold it my *duty*, so I have good *reasons* so to do, in regard I am to have my share in the happiness; And could the utmost of

my poor endeavours, by any ministeriall humble
 advice (and sometimes the meanest *Heart-surgeon* may help
 to preserve the Ship from sinking) be so happy, as to
 contribute any thing to advance this great work
 (which I am in despair to do, while I am thus under
trouble in this *Exile*) I would esteem it the greatest
 honour that possibly could befall me, as I hold it now
 to be my greatest misfortune, to have fallen so heavily un-
 der an affliction of this nature, and to be made a sac-
 rifice to *passion*, then which there is no other
 proof, *whatsoever* urged against me, or any thing else
 produced here so long, so long captivity, which hath
 brought me to such a low estate, and put me so far be-
 hind in the course of my poor fortunes, and indeed
 more then halt upon me. For although my whole
 life (since I was left to my self to *swim*, as they say,
without ballast) has bin nothing else but a continued
 succession of crosses, and that there are but few red
 letters found (God wot) in the Almanack of my Age,
 (for which I account not my self a whit the lesse
 happy;) yet this crosse has carried with it a greater
 weight, it hath bin of a larger extent, longer con-
 tinuance, and lighted heavier upon me then any
 other; and as I have *present paine* to bear it, so I
 hope for *subsequen* to make use of it accordingly,
 that my old Motto may be still confirmed, *παθήματα,
 μαθήματα*.

HE produceth my attestation for some passages in
Spain, at His Majestyes being there, and he
 quotes me right, which obligeth me to him: And I
 hope all his quotations, wherein he is so extraordina-
 rily copious and elaborate in all his works, are so; yet
 I must tell him, that those interchangeable Letters
 which passed between His Majesty and the Pope, which
 were originally couched in *Latine*, the language wher-
 in

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in all Nations treat with Rome, and the Empire with all the Princes therof; those Letters, I say, are adulterated in many places, which I impute not to him, but to the *French Chronicker*, from whom he took them in trust. The truth of that business is this; The world knows there was a tedious treaty of an Alliance 'twixt the Infanta *Dona Maria* (who now is *Empresse*) and His Majesty, which in regard of the slow affected pace of the *Spaniard*, lasted about ten yeers, as that in *Henry* the seventh's time, 'twixt Prince *Arthur*, and (afterwards) Queen *Katherine*, was spun out above seven: To quicken, or rather to consummate the work, His Majestie made that adventurous journey through the whole Continent of *France*, into *Spain*; which voyage, though ther was a great deal of gallantry in it (wherof all posterity will ring, untill it turn at last to a *Romance*) yet it prov'd the bane of the business, which 'tis not the arrand of so poor a Pamphlet as this to unfold. His Majestie being there arriv'd, the ignorant common peeple cryed out, the *Prince of Wales* came thither to make himself a *Christian*. The Pope writ to the *Inquisitor Generall*, and others, to use all industry they could to reduce him to the *Roman Religion*; And one of *Olivares* first complements to him, was, *That he doubted not but that His Highnesse came thither to change His Religion*: wherunto he made a short answer, *That he came not thither for a Religion, but for a Wife*. Ther were extraordinary processions made, and other artinces us'd by protraction of things, to make him stay there of purpose till the Spring following, to work upon him the better: And the Infanta her self desir'd him (which was esteem'd the greatest favour he received from her all the while) to visit the Nun of *Carion*; hoping that the said Nun, who was so much cryed up for miracles, might have wrought one upon him; but her art failed her, nor

was His Highnesse so weak a subject to work upon, according to His late Majesties speech to Doctor Mawe and *Wren*, who when they came to kisse his hands, before they went to *Spain* to attend the Prince their Master, He wished them to have a care of *Buckingham*; as touching his Son *Charls*, he apprehended no fear at all of him; for he knew him to be so wellgrounded a Protestant, that nothing could shake him in his Religion. The *Arabian* Proverb is, That the Sun never soiles in his passage, though his Beams reverberate never so strongly, and dwell never so long upon the Myr lake of *Martin*, the black Turf'd Moors of *Holland*, the Aguish Woofe of *Kent* and *Essex*, or any other place, be it never so dirty: Though *Spain* be a hot Countrey, yet one may passe and repasse through the very Center of it, and never be Sun-burnt, if he carry with him a *Bongrace*, and such a one His Majesty had.

Well, after His Majesties arrivall to *Madrid*, the treaty of Marriage went on still, (though he told them at his first coming, that he came not thither like an *Ambassadour*, to treat of Marriage; but as a Prince, to fetch home a Wife;) and in regard they were of different Religions, it could not be done without a dispensation from the *Pope*, and the *Pope* would grant none, unlesse som Capitulations were stipulated in favour of the *Romish* Catholikes in *England*, (the same in substance were agreed on with *France*.) Well, when the dispensation came, which was negotiated solely by the King of *Spains* Ministers; because His Majestie would have as little to do as might be with *Rome*, *Pope Gregory* the fiftenth, who died a little after, sent His Majesty a Letter, which was delivered by the *Nuncio*, wherof an answer was sent a while after: Which Letters were imprinted and exposed to the view of the world, because His Majesty would not have peeple whisper, that the busines was carried in a clandestine

clandestine manner. And truly besides this, I do not know of any Letter, or Message, or Complement, that ever pass'd twice His Majesty and the *Pope*, afore or after; some addresses peradventure might be made to the Cardinals, to whom the drawing of those matrimoniall dispatches was referred, to quicken the work, but this was onely by way of civill negotiation.

Now touching that *reply* Letter from His Majesty, it was no other then a Complement in the severest interpretation, and such formalities pass'd twice the Crown of *England* and the great *Turk*, and divers *Heathen Princes*. The *Pope* went first, and no man can deny, but by ill morall rules, and in common humane civility His Majesty was bound to answer it, specially considering how punctuall they are in those Countries to correspond in this kind, how exact they are in repairing visits and the performance of such Ceremonies; And had this compliance bin omitted, it might have made very ill impressions, as the posture of thing stood then; for it had prejudiced the great work in hand, I mean, the *Match*, which was then in the heat and height of agitation: His Majesty's person was there engag'd, and so it was no time to give the least offence. They that are never so little vers'd in buisness abroad, do know that there must be addresses, compliances, and formalities of this nature (According to the *Italian Proverb*, *That one must sometimes light a candle to the Devil*) us'd in the carriage of matters of State, as this great buisness was, wherein the eyes of all Christendom were so greedily fix'd; A buisness which was like to bring with it such an universall good, as the restitution of the *Palatinate*, the quenching of those hideous fires in *Germany*, and the establishing of a peace through all the Christian World.

I hope none will take offence, that in this particular

which comes within the compas of my knowledg, being upon the Stage when this Scene was acted, I do this right to the King my Master, in displaying the Truth, and putting her forth in her own colours, a rare thing in these dayes.

TOUCHING the *Fecall Forest*, an Allegoricall Discourse, that goes abroad under my name, a good while before the beginning of this *Parlement*, which this *Gentleman* cites (and that very faithfully.) I understand there be some that mutter at certain passages therein, by putting i'th glosses upon the Text; and taking with the *left hand*, what I offer with the *right*: (Not is it a wonder for Trees which lies open, and stand exposed to all weathers to be nipt.) But I desire this favour, which in *common justice*, I am sure in the Court of *Chancery* cannot be denied me, it being the priviledge of every Author, and a received maxime through the World, *ex usq; condere, eiusq; interpretari*. I say, I crave this favour, to have leave to expound my own Text, and I doubt not then but to rectifie any one in his opinion of me, and that in lieu of the *Flum* which I give him from those *Trees*, he will not throw the stones at me.

Moreover, I desire those that are ever criticall Censurers of that Peece, to know, thas in Divinity it is a rule, *Scriptura parabolica non est argumentum*: so it is in all other kind of knowledg. *Favallies* (whereof that Discourse is composed) though pressed never so hard, prove nothing. Ther is another Rule also, That *Favallies* must be gently used, like a Nurses Brest; which if you presse too hard, you shall have blood in stead of milk.

But as the Author of the *Fecall Forest* thinks he hath done, neither his country, nor the Commonwealth of Learning any prejudice thereby. (This
marken

maidenfancy having received so good entertainment and respect abroad, as to be translated into divers Languages, and to gain the public approbation of some famous Universities.) So he makes this humble protest unto all the World, that though the designe of that Discourse was partly *Satyricall* (which peradventure induc'd the Author to shewd it of purpose under the shadows of *Trees*; and wher should Satyres be, but amongst *Trees*?) yet it never entred into his imagination to let fall from him the least thing that might give any offence to the High and Honourable Court of *Parlement*, wherof he had the honor to be once a Member, and hopes he may be thought worthy again: And were he guilty of such an offence, or *piacle* rather, he thinks he should never forgive himself; though he were appointed his own Judge. If ether occur any passage therein, that may admit a hard construction, let the Reader observe, That the Author doth not positively assert, or passe a judgment on any thing in that Discourse which consists principally of concise, cursory narrations, of the choicest Occurrences and Criticisms of State, according as the pulse of time did beat then: And matters of State, as all other sublunary things, are subject to alterations, contingencies and change, which makes the opinions and minds of men vary accordingly; not one amongst twenty is the same man to day as he was four yeers ago, in point of judgement, which turns and alters according to the circumstance and successe of things: And it is a true saying, wherof we find common experience, *Posterior dies est prioris Magister*. The day following is the former dayes School-master. Ther's another Aphorism, *The wisdom of one day is foolishnesse to another*, and 'twill be so as long as ther is a man left in the World.

I will

I will conclude with this modest request to that Gentleman of the long Robe ; That having unpassionately perus'd what I have written in this small Discourse, in penning wherof, my conscience guided my quill all along as well as my hand, he would please to be so charitable and just, as to reverse that harsh sentence upon me, *To be no Friend to Parlements, and a Malignant.*



FINIS.

